

Docket Nos.: 02-0782/03-0088 (Cons.)
and 02-0789/03-0092 (Cons.)
Bench Date: 02-20-03
Deadlines: 02-23-03 and 02-24-03

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: John D. Albers, Administrative Law Judge

DATE: February 11, 2003

SUBJECT: Illinois Bell Telephone Company (Ameritech Illinois) and
Choctaw Communications, LC d/b/a Smoke Signal
Communications

Illinois Bell Telephone Company (Ameritech Illinois) and
Midwestern Telecommunications, Inc.

Joint petitions for approval of interconnection agreements and
amendments thereto pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252.

RECOMMENDATION: Enter the attached orders approving the agreements and
amendments.

Illinois Bell Telephone Company ("Ameritech") and Choctaw Communications, LC d/b/a Smoke Signal Communications ("Choctaw") seek the Commission's approval of their interconnection agreement and the first amendment to their interconnection agreement. Ameritech and Midwestern Telecommunications, Inc. ("Midwestern") seek the same. Staff initially raised three issues in objecting to both interconnection agreements. The amendments alleviate Staff's concern pertaining to the remedy plan contained in the originally filed interconnection agreements as well as Staff's concern regarding certain language in the agreements requiring Choctaw and Midwestern to support approval of their respective agreements "without modification." Staff's remaining concern related to whether or not Choctaw and Midwestern were waiving any rights. Representations made on the record by Ameritech, Choctaw, and Midwestern that no waiver is intended alleviated Staff's third concern. There are no other contested issues in these proceedings. No petitions to intervene were received.

The deadline for Commission action on the underlying Choctaw agreement is February 23, 2003 while the deadline on the Choctaw amendment is May 8, 2003. The deadline for Commission action on the underlying Midwestern agreement is February 24,

2003 while the deadline on the Midwestern amendment is May 11, 2003. The attached orders approve the agreements and amendments.

These matters have been submitted to the Commission after the normal distribution date for February 20, 2003 Bench Session because the parties were not able to file all of the necessary pleadings resolving all of the issues until February 10, 2003. In light of the deadlines for the underlying proposed agreements, these matters could not wait until the next Bench Session.

JDA